

Fall 2023

The Crocker Chronicle

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MACOMB COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
CROCKER HOUSE MUSEUM & GARDENS

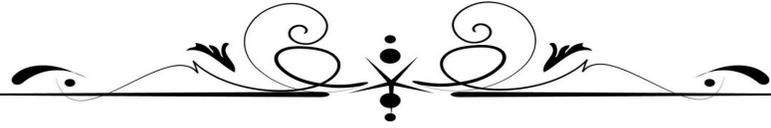
Return of our
CEMETERY WALK

HALLOWE'EN
at the Crocker House

Join in on the fun at our
MEMBER PICNIC

Highlights from our
GARDEN WALK

MACOMB COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY CROCKER HOUSE MUSEUM & GARDENS



FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Summer is nearing an end and we look forward to celebrating autumn in our Crocker House Garden. We hope you had an opportunity to visit the garden this summer. It is so lush and inviting with all of the beautiful flowers planted by Ross and Julie Champion.

We did say farewell to Katie Annett and Sue Thiry in July. We wish Katie well in her future endeavors and we hope Sue's medical condition will stabilize with rest and relaxation. Meet our new office manager in the article inside. She is Alexandra Harris and goes by "Alex." Alex completed her training with Sue and some of the board members and is now on the job. Our new office hours are Monday through Thursday, 9-4, closed for lunch from 12 to 1.

The annual member meeting will be held on September 14 at 5:00 with a garage sale for members only. The election of directors will take place at that time. Are you interested in joining the board of directors? Call the office at 586-465-2488 and a board member will return your call and answer any questions you may have. We also seek volunteers for the various museum committees to include Event Planning, Maintenance, Fund Raising, Accession and Membership. We will have sign-up lists at the member meeting.

We have several events planned for you to enjoy. This year's cemetery walk celebrates the 160th anniversary of the Battle of Chickamauga. We are honoring local soldiers who fought in that battle.

This is a timed, guided tour. Tickets are \$18 for members and may be purchased now. Call Alex at 586-465-2488 to reserve your tour. Our Hallowe'en event will return on October 28th with more fun activities for children and adults. Celebrate the holiday season at our annual Open House on December 2nd. Santa and Mrs. Clause will be visiting and there will be tunes with Marj, wassail, baked goods and much more. Information on these events may be found in the newsletter.

On November 16th, we will have a potluck lunch to decorate the museum for the holidays. We will start at 9:00. Bring a dish to pass and enjoy the spirit of the season.

We wish you a happy autumn.

MCHS Board of Directors



The Crocker Chronicle



Meet Alex

I'm Alexandra Marie, though you can call me Alex. My lens comes alive beyond my role at the Macomb County Historical Society – I'm a photographer capturing the joy of weddings, the warmth of families, and the pride of graduations, and more. Black and white film photography is my heartbeat, and you'll often find me immersed in music and the pages of history.

When I'm not capturing moments or diving into history I'm hands on with my 1930's home, working alongside my partner Sam to renovate it just right. I've got a green thumb too, tending to my little flower garden and nurturing herbs. Enjoying the simple pleasures, you can frequently spot me in the backyard, sipping on coffee and soaking in the tranquility.

Reading is my escape; whether it's novels or delving into history, you'll find me engrossed. My journey is diverse with experience in Administrative Assistance, Office Management and Retail Sales. Now, I am thrilled to merge my passions with the fantastic team at the Macomb County Historical Society.



MACOMB COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBER MEETING SEPTEMBER 14 5:00PM RAIN OR SHINE

Enjoy our annual hot dog picnic with salads and cookies. There will be an election of directors, door prizes volunteer recognition and a garage sale for members only



Member Picnic

The annual member meeting picnic will be held on September 14th at 5:00 PM with a fun garage sale for members only. There will be hot dogs, salads and cookies for members. It's a great time to meet our Board of Directors and other members of the Crocker House. We are hoping for a warm sunny day, unlike the rain we had last year.

There will also be an election of directors that will take place at that time. Are you interested in joining the board of directors? Call the office at 586-465-2488 and a board member will return your call and answer any questions you may have.

We also seek volunteers for the various museum committees to include Event Planning, Maintenance, Fund Raising, Accession and Membership. We will have sign-up lists at the member meeting.

Gary Peters Garden Walk

The Gary Peters Garden Walk was held on July 15th and included beautiful gardens in and around Mt. Clemens. Below are some photographs from this year's event. If you were not able to attend this year's Garden Walk, be sure to ask us for one of the event programs.



Garden Walk photographs provided by June Michelin



The Holidays are around the corner!

Lets Decorate the Museum

It's time to decorate the museum for
the holiday season

November 16, 2023
9:00am - 4:00pm

**BRING A DISH
TO PASS AND
ENJOY A DAY
OF HOLIDAY
FUN**

**CROCKER HOUSE
MUSEUM**

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

DECEMBER 2, 2023
12:00-4:00
SANTA LEAVES AT 3:30

FREE ADMISSION
DONATIONS ALWAYS APPRECIATED
VISIT SANTA AND MRS. CLAUS, TUNES
WITH MARJ, KID CRAFTS, TREATS, BAKED
GOODS, GIFT SHOP AND SO MUCH MORE

15 UNION STREET
MOUNT CLEMENS

MACOMB COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
INFO@CROCKERHOUSEMUSEUM.ORG
586-465-2488

★ MACOMB COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ★

Cemetery Walk

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7 - 12:00-4:00 P.M.
CLINTON GROVE CEMETERY
21189 CASS AVE - CLINTON TWP, MI 48036

Join us for our annual fundraiser at Clinton Grove Cemetery!

This year's event honors the Civil War's 22nd Michigan Infantry Regiment and the 160th anniversary of the Battle of Chickamauga. Meet soldiers and their families who are buried at Clinton Grove, learn about the regiment's role during the battle, and enjoy refreshments, raffle baskets, and fun.



\$18 for Macomb County Historical Society Members, \$20 for nonmembers. Tickets are timed and must be purchased in advance. Proceeds support the maintenance and preservation of the Crocker House Museum & Gardens.

Generously Sponsored By



Harold W. Vick Funeral Home
140 S. Main Street
Mount Clemens, MI 48043
Tel: 586-463-0098
www.vickfuneralhome.com

To purchase tickets, call the museum at 586-465-2488.



OCTOBER at the Crocker House

October is fast approaching and the Macomb County Historical Society is excited to announce that we have two fun events planned.

We are excited to announce that our beloved Cemetery Walk is returning! This year's walk honors the Civil War's 22nd Michigan Infantry Regiment and the 160th anniversary of the Battle of Chickamauga. There will be raffle baskets and refreshments. Tickets are \$18 for members, \$20 for non-members. Call Alex at 586-465-2488 to reserve your tour.

"Hallowe'en at the Crocker House." will be on Saturday, October 28th from 6 to 10 P.M. and is catered to both adult and kids. This evening event will be an experience of the old Crocker House that you've never seen before. The house will be candle lit and you'll be able to experience the house with all new exhibits. We will

even have fortunes being told in the formal parlor.

We have also teamed up with the incredible "Anatomy of Death Museum" in Mt. Clemens to help round out our event. Owner Todd will bring the obscure and unusual from his personal collection of mortuary items and give the history of their use.

We also are exploring the fascinating history of Hallowe'en decorating and highlighting the incredible artwork of the Beistle Company, who has manufactured Hallowe'en decorations for over 100 years. We will also be showcasing vintage and antique items from Hallowe'en past from a personal collection throughout the entire home and grounds.

The night will round out with folklore & tall tales being told around the campfire. Share your own ghostly experiences with others and listen in amazement of out of this world things that have happened in the area. Be sure to ask about the woman with the red bandana; truly a creepy story from a century ago!

Tickets are only \$12 to attend. You can purchase them online from our web site or purchase them at the door.

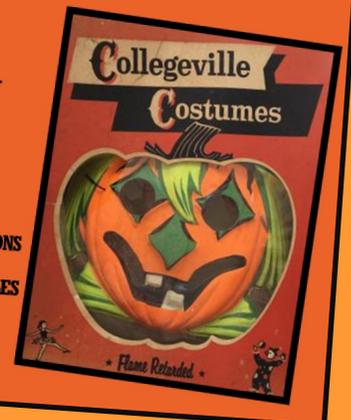
Macomb County Historical Society Presents HALLOWEEN AT THE CROCKER HOUSE.



A PLACE SO SPOOKY IT HAD TO BE MOVED...TWICE!

6-10 PM SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28TH

- SEASONAL TREATS & BEVERAGES
- PRESENTATIONS ON HALLOWE'EN DECORATIONS FROM THE LAST 100 YEARS
- TEA LEAF FORTUNE TELLING
- CANDLELIT TOURS OF THE MUSEUM WITH HISTORICAL HALLOWEEN PARTY DECORATIONS
- BONFIRE TO SHARE FOLKLORE & TALL TALES
- MANY OTHER EVENTS FOR ADULTS & KIDS



COLLECTOR'S *Corner*

BY MIKE BRADLEY

The term Halloween derives from its earlier name of All Hallows Even (or eve) which was later shortened to simply Hallowe'en. Many postcards from the turn of the century depict the spelling of Hallowe'en and the term seemed to have lost its apostrophe after World War II where it was simply referred to as Halloween. When many think of Halloween, the first thing that comes to mind is the jack-o-lantern. Happily smiling or completely terrifying - the jack-o-lantern has become the universal image of Halloween.

After the use of carving real fruits and vegetables, Germany began to import cardboard paper mâché pumpkins in the 1920s in various styles and shapes. Some manufacturers even

used obscure objects such as cardboard watermelons to carve out a spooky grin. Later on, paper mâché pumpkins were massed produced in the 1940s and 1950s with a material that resembled paper egg cartons. The eyes, nose and mouth often had a tissue paper insert that was painted with details that shine through when lit from inside. These paper mâché pumpkins can be difficult to find since many were either discarded after the holiday or damaged over years in storage due to their fragile construction.



Early German cardboard pumpkins from the 1920s.



Paper mâché pumpkins that were massed produced in the 1940s and 1950s.

authentic antique or a reproduction. There's many books on the market that can help you with this.

When collecting these delicate objects, consideration must be made on their display and storage during the off season. I recommend using clear plastic storage bins that can be purchased at any hardware store with tissue paper used to anchor the objects away from another. Using orange and black tissue can put you in the spooky mode when unwrapping these pumpkins at the beginning of the season and the tissue can double as decoration when you display your Hallowe'en objects by using it as background material in your display cabinet or simply a material to rest the pumpkins on.

If you're not comfortable spending money on authentic antique pieces, there are many affordable remarkable looking reproductions on the market that give you that vintage Hallowe'en feel. That being said, if you are looking for authentic pieces for your collection, be sure to familiarize yourself with tell-tale signs if a piece is

Be sure to visit the Crocker House during the month of October, or at our Hallowe'en event, to see the exhibit of vintage Halloween decorations - including vintage paper mâché pumpkins that will be on display throughout the home. If you would like to contribute to our next "Collector's Corner", please contact us. We'd love to share the story of something you collect!



MACOMB COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY & CROCKER HOUSE MUSEUM
A LATE VICTORIAN HOME-LIFE EXPERIENCE

15 Union Street

Mount Clemens, MI 48043

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Diane McDougall, Director

Save the Date

"Cemetery Walk"

12 P.M. to 4 P.M. on Saturday, October 7th, \$18 Admission.

"Hallowe'en at the Crocker House"

6 P.M. to 10 P.M. on Saturday, October 28th, \$12 Admission.

"Lets Decorate the Museum & Potluck"

9 A.M. to 4 P.M. on Thursday, November 16th

"Crocker House Museum Holiday Open House"

12 P.M. to 4 P.M. on Saturday, December 2nd

Please contact the Museum at (586) 465-2488 or info@crockerhousemuseum.org for additional info about these events.